

RECEIVED
OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 19 2016

EPA-REGION 10



U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

As a businessperson here in Portland, I have concerns with the EPA's proposed plan to dredge parts of the Willamette River to remove contaminated materials. It's been known for some time that there were pollution problems with the river, but it has taken a very long time for the EPA to get this plan together. Unfortunately, this is not a good plan for Portland residents, businesses, or for the environment. Ten miles of the river are designated as a Superfund site, and being sure they are cleaned up is definitely important. However, the EPA is proposing a very invasive plan that will have negative impacts throughout the entire area economy.

I am the owner of an online magazine focused on entertainment. I publish the magazine from my home, and it is not near the waterfront, so I would not be physically affected by the noise and congestion caused by dredging there. However, many of the businesses that I do business with definitely would. Businesses like bands, nightclubs, music shops--anything having to do with entertainment--could be affected if they are located along the waterfront. They are my advertisers, and if their businesses were to suffer financially, then so would mine. With all the noise and confusion, I don't see how some of them could continue in business. Many people would be dissuaded from visiting the riverfront area. Recreation on the river itself would also suffer. I go down to the waterfront all the time and go boating or fishing with friends. I would do it less if 24-hour dredging were going on.

Portland is going to have to absorb part of the costs of this EPA cleanup. It could mean higher taxes. For my business, if my taxes went up, I'd have less operating money and I might have to raise my advertising rates to compensate. This would affect my advertisers, and on down the line. This area is still recovering economically and we don't need this type of financial pressure. The Army Corps of Engineers, experts in this field, suggests a less invasive, more wait-and-see approach. Recent testing in 2014 has shown that contamination in the river has dropped significantly because of the river's own natural healing processes. We should give this natural restoration a chance first before we start dredging.

Other Superfund site cleanups have not forced local areas to jump to the most aggressive approach first, as the EPA is asking Portland to do. All I can say is, "Why should plans that have worked for other cities, not work here as well?" Local businesses and residents are not comfortable with the EPA's current plan. Portland's voices need to be listened to and natural restoration of the river chosen over an economically-destructive plan.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

President

14634 SE Market Ct.
Portland, OR 97233